



**CNET
News
Service**



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**CNS0501 SecDef announces Harms for appointment to vice,
assignment as CNET**

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced recently that the President has nominated Navy Rear Adm. Alfred G. Harms Jr., for appointment to the grade of vice admiral and assignment as chief of Naval Education and Training in Pensacola, Fla. Harms is currently serving as director, Assessment Division, N81, office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Rear Admiral Alfred G. Harms Jr.
United States Navy
Director, Assessment Division (N81)
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

Rear Admiral Alfred G. Harms Jr., is a native of central Illinois and a graduate of the University of Illinois where he was commissioned through the Naval ROTC program in 1971. He assumed duties in November 2000 as the director, assessment division (N81), office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Designated a naval flight officer in 1972 and trained in the A-6 Intruder, Harms' operational sea tours include two WESTPAC deployments in VA-145 aboard USS RANGER (CV-61), and both Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean deployments in VA-176 aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62). Additionally, he served as executive officer in USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) following completion of the Navy's Nuclear Power program.

Command experience includes tours as commanding officer of Attack Squadron 75 aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67), commanding officer of the amphibious dock transport USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12), commanding officer of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS NIMITZ (CVN-68)

and commander, Carrier Air Group THREE/Commander, Carl Vinson Battle Group during combat operations in support of Operations Desert Fox and Southern Watch.

Shore and staff assignments include Naval ROTC Instructor at Texas A&M University, distinguished graduate of the Naval Test Pilot School with subsequent service as an ordnance development/advanced technology test project officer at the Naval Air Test Center, and graduate of the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy. Harms' first Flag Officer assignment was as deputy director of Operations at U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla. He recently served as Deputy Commander in Chief and Chief of Staff for the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Harms' decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards) and numerous other personal and unit commendations.

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CNS0502 Operation UPLINK brings NAVHOSP Sailors closer to home, by JO1 Maria Christina Mercado, Naval Hospital Pensacola

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Long distance telephone calls to family and friends of Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola Sailors and patients will be easier thanks to a generous donation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Retired Army Colonel John Crane, chief of staff for the VFW's District One, made a special trip to the NH recently to present 300 pre-paid calling cards to Sailors and patients at the hospital. He officially presented the cards to Capt. Robert D. Hufstader, the hospital's commanding officer.

"This is a magnificent gift from the VFW and will undoubtedly be well received by our Sailors and patients," says Hufstader.

The telephone cards were given to the hospital through the VFW's 'Operation Uplink' program that is designed to help active duty service members and hospitalized veterans ease the loneliness of separation by providing them a practical, and less expensive, way of calling home.

"More than 200,000 cards have already been distributed to U.S. troops in Bosnia, Germany, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Korea and Alaska, as well as in a number of military hospitals and installations throughout the states," says Crane.

During his visit, Crane toured the NH and personally distributed 25 of the telephone cards to hospital corpsmen working in the new Outpatient Clinic.

"I'm going to call my Dad," says Hospitalman Michael James. "He is in the hospital back home and I'm going to use (the telephone card) to call him."

The cards will be given to junior Sailors in need, and for newly reporting personnel as a means to call home and let loved ones know they arrived safely," says Master Chief

Journalist Randy Kafka, the hospital's command master chief.

'Operation Uplink' is funded by donations from individuals and VFW members around the globe. For more information contact your local VFW or the organization's website at <http://www.vfw.org/home.shtml>.

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**CNS 0503 MORE THAN 60 LBS. OF 'POP-TABS' DONATED TO LOCAL
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE**

INGLESIDE, Texas - "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence" Sailors, aboard Naval Station (NAVSTA) Ingleside, Texas, have been collecting "pop-tabs" from soda cans for the past several months. Cmdr. James Looby, NAVSTA Ingleside's chaplain, has spearheaded the effort. Looby and RP3 Esparanza Waterman, of the Chaplain's Office, recently brought more than 60 pounds of these "pop-tabs" to the Ronald McDonald House in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Ronald McDonald House provides a "home-away-from-home" for the families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. The nearly 90,000 tabs collected, when recycled, can pay for more than an entire day of electricity needed to keep the Ronald McDonald House running. "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence" Sailors continue to collect pop-tabs. Note: 57 pounds will pay for a day of electricity for the facility.

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**CNS0504 New UTI treatment for women only a phone call
away; Navy program pilot-tested at NH Pensacola
by Jan Davis, BUMED**

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Infections of the urinary tract are common -- only respiratory infections occur more often. But, according to Department of Defense statistics, more than 120,000 patient visits were made to military treatment facilities to get treatment for urinary tract infections (UTI).

Women are especially prone to UTI. One woman in five develops a urinary tract infection during her lifetime, and many have recurrences.

Now, thanks to a Navy-funded pilot program tested at Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola, women from ages 18 to 55 who get their health care from the Military Health System (MHS) may have a new option for getting treatment for their UTI - - and it's only a telephone call away.

Three hundred women who called to make appointments because of UTI symptoms were given the option of seeing a health care provider or talking to one over the telephone to diagnose and get medication for the infection. About half the women chose the telephone for its convenience and immediacy.

"The pilot program had great results," says Cmdr. Rick Stoermann, MC, a coordinator of the pilot program at NH Pensacola. "Our patients got quicker treatment, and our study results show that it was just as safe and effective as coming into the clinic or visiting the emergency room."

Women were prescribed three days of antibiotics that are very effective against most UTI.

However, warns Stoermann: "This telephone option isn't for everyone."

"Women who have other symptoms not consistent with UTI, or who aren't in the target population are asked to make an appointment. The study helped us develop strict

guidelines for our healthcare providers to make sure the telephone option is the most sensible option for the patient."

Women who have suffered from UTIs will tell you that the sooner they can get treatment, the better. Symptoms can be uncomfortable, including a frequent urge to urinate, a painful burning in the area of the bladder during urination, and an overall tired, shaky, washed out feeling. Some may even feel pain when not urinating.

Ultimately, all medical facilities in the Department of Defense and Veterans Administration will have the telephone treatment option for UTI, using the guidelines established by the pilot program at NH Pensacola.

The program is also being used at three of Naval Hospital's 12 Branch Medical Clinics: Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Naval Air Technical Training Center, both in northwest Florida, and at New Orleans. It likely will find its way to other medical facilities throughout the country.

The data shows NH Pensacola nurses in the Family Practice and Internal Medicine clinics provided quicker, efficient and safe care for these patients while reducing by 60 percent the number of patients needing to see a physician, says Stoermann. NH Pensacola records about 2,000 UTI cases annually.

The new option has the potential of saving money -- enough to fund 10 full-time health care professionals -- allowing physicians time to see the more difficult cases and a real patient satisfier, says Stoermann.

Nurses in the Family Practice and Internal Medicine clinics, Lt. Cmdr. Sally Dupre and Lt. Charlotte Semple, were instrumental in providing the triage service to patients and gathering the information to be included in the study.

NH Pensacola is in the infancy stages of gathering data, which may be helpful in developing similar telephone treatment options for sinusitis and otitis media (ear aches).

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**CNS0505 Robinette selected NTTC Corry Station SOY for
2000, Sandra Bansemer, NTTC PAO**

PENSACOLA, Fla. - CT01(SW) Ronald K. Robinette, a CTO Basic School and Navy Integrated Cryptologic Communications Systems (NICCS) course instructor is Sailor of the Year for 2000 at Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC), Corry Station.

"I am extremely proud of him," says CTOCM David L. Surrell, Basic Technology division leading chief petty officer. "During normal working hours he successfully completed a six-week NICCS course graduating with honors. During the evening shift he taught CTO Basic School, totaling 16-hour days for a six-week period."

Robinette enlisted in the Navy in January 1992. Following basic training, he reported to NTTC Corry Station for CTO "A" school. After graduating with honors, he reported to NSGA Rota, Spain, in August 1992.

In February 1996 he completed Tactical Intelligence "C" school at Corry Station then returned to Rota for another tour as a Surface Direct Support operator. He has been in his present assignment since April 1999.

"Petty Officer Robinette personifies the total Sailor concept," says Basic Technology Division Officer CW04 Douglas A. Jones. "He is totally dedicated to mission accomplishment regardless of personal sacrifice. Above all

he has the ornate ability to make his subordinates and family members feel that they are his number one priority."

"Robinette is the type of instructor who "A" school students remember by name ... and will still remember 20 years from now," added CTOCS Michael W. Meyer, NICCS course manager.

Robinette's personal awards and decorations include: Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), Joint Meritorious Unit Award (2), Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy "E", Navy Good Conduct Medal (2), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3), Navy/Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon (3), and NATO Medal.

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**CNS0506 South Dakota ESGR receives TRI-Service Education
 at NCTC, Gulfport, Miss., by Bonnie L. McGerr,
 NCTC GP PAO**

GULFPORT, Miss. - Recently, the Seabees, Soldiers and Airman of Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC), Gulfport were hosts to members of the South Dakota chapter of the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). ESGR is an organization chartered by the Department of Defense to keep private industry employers informed of the need for, and importance of, National Guard and Reserve personnel.

South Dakota's ESGR membership encompasses businessmen and women in a variety of career fields that includes high school principals, bank executives, state committee representatives and business entrepreneurs, as well as the Adjutant General and State Command Sergeant Major of the South Dakota National Guard.

After a welcome from NCTC's executive officer and fellow South Dakotan, Lt. Cmdr. Mark Van Vleck, NCTC's Operations Officer, Lt. j.g. Heather Walton gave the visitors a command brief. Recruitment and retention statistics relayed during the brief turned into an excellent springboard for a group discussion on tri-service recruitment issues and retention concerns.

At the conclusion of the question and answer session, the ESGR members went for a walking tour of the Steelworker and Builder schoolhouses led by NCTC's Charlie Company

Commander, CWO2 Terry Knapp. While on tour, the group had the opportunity to talk with carpentry and steelworker students about life in today's military. The students and staff were pleased at the level of interest displayed by the visitors and encourage others to call and set up a tour so that they too can see what training facilities and opportunities NCTC has to offer.

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**CNS0507 P3 Crewmember gets heroes welcome, throws out
first pitch at Chicago Cubs Game, by JO3 Jessica
Pearce, NTC Public Affairs Office**

GREAT LAKES, Ill. - Several Great Lakes Sailors were among those greeting CTR3 Jeremy Crandall, of Loves Park, Ill., a crewmember of the EP-3E plane held in China, as he was welcomed home, Monday, April 16, at O'Hare International Airport.

Crandall is one of the 22 Sailors, one Air Force member and one Marine, on the EP-3E plane detained by the Chinese after the controversial April 1 mid-air collision.

The young Sailor, who turned 20 the day before the incident, was remarkably composed when greeted with flashing cameras and microphones as he debarked the plane from Seattle. He doesn't mind the attention, saying, "the American people brought me home, if they want to hear my story, I'm willing to tell it."

He spoke candidly with the reporters gathered at the airport, saying that he did not consider himself a hero, just a proud service member doing his job. Crandall told reporters what happened during the collision, and just after.

"I could see the other plane, we were wingtip to wingtip- he was close," Crandall said. "Lt. (Shane) Osborne is the hero here, he kept it together, kept cool and saved 23 other people."

After the initial contact, Crandall said the crew was "shocked. I kept thinking 'am I going to die?' I was saying prayers and making peace."

Crandall said the crew of the downed plane kept themselves entertained while detained by playing card games and coming up with action figures for each member of the crew. Because he was the youngest member, the "baby" of the group, Crandall's figure was an upside down parachute with a diaper bag. The crew was all-pretty close, Crandall

says, so it wasn't too hard. The worst part, he said, was that he knew where he was, "and that scared me."

Crandall said the crew was treated well, despite interrogated twice, for a total of about two and a half to three hours. He was glad when the crew departed China.

"As soon as we got back into international airspace, we all went crazy," he said. Some of the crewmembers "looked back to make sure we didn't have any escorts, but we were all relieved and happy."

Crandall was a month short of qualifying to earn his air crew wings, but when he landed in Hawaii his senior chief took the wings off his own uniform, and pinned them on Crandall's, saying that he had earned them.

"I've got my wings of gold now," he showed reporters.

ENCM(SW/DV) Scott Kinglsey and a contingent of Great Lakes Sailors presented Crandall with command coins from Naval Training Center, Great Lakes as a welcome home from the Navy family.

"It was good to see the support from Great Lakes," Crandall said.

Congressman Donald Manzullo, who represents the 16th Congressional District from Illinois, was also at the airport to welcome the Sailor home.

"I never expected what happened to happen, that he would be held over there. But sometimes it takes unfortunate incidents like this to realize how precious our military really is," Manzullo said. The congressman went on to praise the ability of the crew to execute the orders of the pilot, which he said was "nothing less than heroic."

Crandall has received some unexpected benefits from the coverage of the incident. On the plane from Seattle, the pilot announced to the rest of the passengers that Crandall was onboard, upgraded him to first class and asked him to autograph his ticket.

Crandall says that he doesn't think there is any reason for the American government to apologize to the Chinese, saying the crew didn't do anything wrong. He also says he is more than willing to go back to flying his missions.

"If my country's President feels we should go back up there, I'll support him."

Crandall was given 30-days leave to spend with his family. On Tuesday, April 17, a rally was held in his honor at North Boone High School near Rockford, Ill., where he graduated in 1999. He was also invited to be the guest of honor at a reception hosted by the City of Loves Park and local veterans groups.

On Wednesday, April 18, Crandall was asked to throw out the first pitch at the Chicago Cubs home game. The Naval Hospital Corps School Color Guard from Great Lakes provided honors at the game, as well.

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**CNS0508 MWTC's fire fighting instructors teach state-of-the-art shipboard fire fighting methods, by
Françoise Kieschnick, PAO NAVSTA Ingleside**

INGLESIDE, Texas - The Mine Warfare Training Center's Fire Fighting Trainer now has a smoke generator used in simulating a shipboard smoke environment. This is a recently added capability that is unique to fire fighting training facilities in the South Texas region.

The fire fighting facility provides state-of-the-art training in shipboard fire fighting techniques, damage containment, and compartment investigation methods. Instructors also teach use of thermal imaging devices -- a hand-held, battery-powered device used in pinpointing not only the source of a fire and hot spots, but also victims caught in a smoke-filled environment. Thermal imaging devices allow for precise fire fighting in smoke-filled tight shipboard spaces.

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**CNS0509 Local Groups Hope to Build Better Citizens, by
DC1 Peter J. Lutz, NAVSTA Ingleside**

INGLESIDE, Texas - Better citizenship was the order of the day as three organizations with a common goal met at A. C. Blunt Middle School in Aransas Pass, Texas, recently. Two events were scheduled to help meet this goal. The first was a demonstration of proper etiquette to the United States flag, held for the benefit of sixth- and seventh-grade students. The second was a recruitment drive for the newly approved Navy Junior ROTC unit at Aransas Pass High School (APHS), staged for the eighth-graders.

The ceremonial color guard unit from Shore intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) Ingleside performed the flag etiquette demonstration. Under the guidance of YN1(SW/AW) Hank Harris, the unit assembled outside the gymnasium to begin the parade of the colors. As the first member entered with the National Ensign, the seated students rose as one in a mass show of respect. The color guard stood in formation after Harris posted the colors and took his place at the podium.

Harris guided his unit through the steps of properly folding the flag. Then his voice took on a different, more sentimental note as he began to recite the patriotic tone poem, "Old Glory." The remaining members, standing single-file, performed a solemnly choreographed show of passing the folded flag down the line. Following this, four students were chosen from the audience to test their flag-folding skills.

In his final remarks, Harris addressed the assembly on a personal note. Stating his various reasons for joining the Navy, the 12-year veteran urged the students to consider Navy enlistment.

"It's an adventure," he said. "Don't even think about it as a job."

Dr. Carl A. Montoya, senior director of Support Services, Aransas Pass Independent School District, and Virgil Anderson, principal of Blunt, staged the second event. A representative of the Navy Junior ROTC unit from Roy Miller High School, NCC(AW/NAC) Greg Miller, presented the information to the students, since Naval Science Instructors have not yet been hired for Aransas Pass High's Navy Junior ROTC unit.

Montoya spearheaded the effort to get the Navy Junior ROTC in Aransas Pass and said he was very excited to have the program, since APHS was one of few in the area to get approved. Montoya said that he wants the program to give an opportunity to all students from all walks of life.

"The kids will gain leadership and democratic ideals," Montoya said. "They'll get exposure beyond the classroom, and learn what's out there in the real world."

Miller's remarks echoed Montoya's. "Navy Junior ROTC creates a sense of citizenship, of belonging," Miller said. He added that, at Roy Miller High School, Navy Junior ROTC is a real drawing card for the students. "Some kids wouldn't even be in school if it weren't for Navy Junior ROTC -- this is where they get immediate acceptance, both from peers and upperclassmen." The Miller Navy Junior ROTC unit has volunteered to assist the newly founded unit in Aransas Pass.

Virgil Anderson, principal of Blunt, said he was very impressed also with the Navy's role in the ceremony. He added that the students were very receptive of the presentation. "We've gotten a lot of applications (for the program)," he said.

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**CNS0510 USS Carl Vinson CVBG Visit to NTC Prepares
Sailors for First Deployment, by JOC Rhonda
Burke, NTC Public Affairs**

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NWS) - The fleet came to Naval Training Center (NTC) in Great Lakes, Ill., recently to meet Sailors heading to the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) Battle Group and prepare them for duty at their first command.

Representatives from the aircraft carriers, USS PRINCETON (CG 59), USS ANTIETAM (CG 54), USS O'KANE (DDG 77), USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1) and Sea Control Squadron 29, visited NTC Great Lakes, greeting Sailors with orders to their commands. They also had an opportunity to witness first-hand the process by which young men and women are turned into Sailors at Recruit Training Command and Service School Command, Great Lakes.

"This is an incredibly valuable experience to have the opportunity to meet with Sailors early on before they report to their commands," said Rear Adm. Thomas Zelibor, commander, Carrier Air Group THREE.

The initiative was piloted by the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) battle group in December 2000 as part of workup procedures for a scheduled deployment.

The group will also visit with detailers at Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn., before heading back to their homeports in Bremerton, Wash., and San Diego.

"Just looking in their eyes, I can tell, it is good for them to know that there are people out there that care about them," said CMDMC(SW/AW) Mike Williams of CARL VINSON. "It gets these Sailors off to a good start as they report to their first command and head out on their first deployment. It's a win-win situation for both the Sailors and the command."

Sailors had the opportunity to meet with their commanding officer and command senior enlisted personnel. During the small group sessions, they could ask the

questions weighing on their minds about their new duty station. Questions ranged from what to expect in terms of daily routine, the homeport area, transferring family members and household goods to what to bring on board and how to pursue off duty educational opportunities.

"I had a lot of my questions answered," said EMFN Jeremy Robinson, of Tifton, Ga., who will graduate from Electricians Mate "A" School in a couple of weeks and then report to CARL VINSON. "It really helped me out and I'm very excited to get there."

Williams said the visit is good for command leadership because it gives them an opportunity to see what these Sailors have learned at Great Lakes and see how motivated they are to get out to the fleet.

"Sometimes we forget what it was like to be heading out to our first command, our first ship," Williams said. "It reinforces that these Sailors are eager to get to their first command and do their job in the fleet." He added the visit was another way the Navy is showing Sailors how valuable they are to the mission.

Seaman Apprentice C.D. Roff, of Cleveland, Ohio, said the experience was great because it enabled him to get his questions answered by the people he will be working for.

"Usually, when you ask a question you hear, 'in my experience, or on my last ship,' but here, I got to ask those questions to the people who know what my experience will be like," Roff said. "Now, when I'm on leave, I'll be able to explain to my family exactly where I'm going and what I'll be doing. My mom will be relieved by that."

Williams believes that in addition to getting valuable information to these Sailors, they will now also be able to match names and faces when they report on board.

"I think it will make the process of reporting less frightening now that they have met leaders in the command," Williams said.

Seaman Donte East, of Houston, Texas, agreed. "We can be well prepared now when we report aboard. I know exactly what to bring and what to expect."

Zelibor said he was particularly impressed with the motivation of the Sailors he met. "I think a program like this will help the Navy in retention and attrition of first-term Sailors."

The Sailors due to report to the battle group were encouraged to visit each command's web page and to e-mail their command master chiefs and sponsors for more information.

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**CNS0511 SH1(SW/AW) Karin D. Sylvia named CNET SOY, by JO2
Eileen M. N. Kelly, CNET PAO staff journalist**

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Petty Officer First Class Karin D. Sylvia catches her breath as she receives the honor of selection as Chief of Naval Education and Training's Sailor of the Year 2000 at the Military Members of the Year Banquet, recently, at National Museum of Naval Aviation aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola. The announcement was preceded by a testimony of courage and leadership by Master Chief Hospital Corpsman (Air Warfare/Surface Warfare/Fleet Marine Force) James G. Parlier, command master chief aboard the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer the USS COLE (DDG 67), when the ship was attacked by terrorists Oct. 12, 2000 while refueling in Yemen. Master Chief Boatswain Mate (Surface Warfare) Gregory M. Pratt, CNET Force Master Chief announced Sylvia's selection.

In an interview after the award presentation, Sylvia said she felt the way she believes [the actress] Julia Roberts may have felt receiving her Oscar, "I wanted to say 'Hold that stick, sir. I will never be up here again and I have a lot of people to thank.' I want everyone to know that I am standing among outstanding individuals. I wouldn't be here receiving this honor without the support from my daughter, Stephanie. I hope I've taught her the goal-setting and decisive decision-making skills I've

learned throughout my Navy career--which is why she is at school and not here with me today."

Sylvia, a ship's serviceman who is dual warfare qualified in both enlisted Surface and Aviation Warfare is assigned to Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, Va. She is a Cross Utilized Certified Instructor in two ship's serviceman courses and is serving as a board member for the Pilot Course of the Ship's Store Afloat Senior Refresher Course. Sylvia qualified as a Master Training Specialist (MTS) in August 2000 and was chosen by the Curriculum and Instructional Standards Department to become an MTS qualifier.

Sylvia was selected from among Naval Education and Training Command's top seven Sailors. She represents more than nine host commands, 17 medical and dental commands, 22 detachments, 27 overseas remote sites, 35 schoolhouses, 166 direct reporting activities and 13,734 Sailors. As the 2000 CNET Sailor of the Year, she travels to Washington, D.C., to compete for the Navy Shore Sailor of the Year, which is scheduled to be announced by the Chief of Naval Operations in May.

Sylvia was born in Lake Station, Ind. A graduate of Thomas Edison High School, Sylvia was employed in the civilian sector for two years prior to joining the service. In 1982, she enlisted in the Navy and reported to Recruit Training Center, Orlando, Fla. Immediately following basic

training, she attended Seaman Apprentice training as an undesignated seaman, upon graduation she reported to Naval Magazine Lualualei, Hawaii. After being onboard two years assigned to the administrative department, Sylvia was selected to attend Ship's Serviceman "A" School in Meridian, Miss. Sylvia, earning the recognition of class honor graduate, received accelerated advancement privileges and was promoted to Ship's Serviceman third class, July 1985, accepting assignment to the Supply department of the Naval Home, Gulfport, Miss.

Sylvia reported to the Sales and Service Division onboard the USS LEXINGTON (AVT 16), Pensacola, Fla., in October 1986. While onboard she attended Ship's Serviceman Barber "C" School and Ship's Store Afloat Resale Operations Management User Course. The 19-year Navy veteran advanced to second class petty officer, November 1989, and was hand selected as Sales and Services Leading Petty Officer (LPO) by her division officer. Sylvia led 28 Sailors, serving as the LPO, until the LEXINGTON's decommissioning when she was advanced to first class petty officer, July 1991.

In October 1991, Sylvia volunteered for recruiting duty and was assigned to Naval Recruiting District Indianapolis, Ind. She was board selected as a Recruiter-in-Charge of a medium station, one of five within the recruiting zone. Following recruiter duty, February 1995, Sylvia attended Ship's Store Afloat Resale Operation

Management Supervisor Course "C" School. Upon graduation she was assigned as the Retail Supervisor and Cash Collection Agent onboard the USS YELLOWSTONE (AD 41).

Following a brief tour at Fleet Assist Team, Norfolk, Va., she reported onboard the aircraft carrier USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67) in December 1996. As supply Department Career Counselor, she was responsible to more than 300 personnel, including augmentees to the KENNEDY during her 1997 Mediterranean deployment. In 18 months, Sylvia processed more than 60 Supply Department reenlistments.

Prior to reporting to Fleet Training Center (FLETRACEN), Norfolk in January 1999, Sylvia completed the Instructor Training Course. Her qualifications provide FLETRACEN added flexibility; she serves as Instructor, Curriculum Development Manager and Educational Technical In-Service Training

During her assignments at sea, Sylvia achieved qualification in both enlisted Surface and Aviation Warfare. She holds four Navy Enlisted Classifications, including 3111, 3122, 9585, and 9502. Her personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), Good Conduct Medal, (five awards), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and various other unit and personal awards.

The Sailor of the Year Program recognizes the very best all-around Sailors from pay grades E-6 and below.

Nominees are judged on their sustained superior performance, duty assignments, leadership, self-improvement, command or community involvement, and appearance.

"I'm very honored to be selected CNET Sailor of the Year," said Sylvia. "I am very proud to part of this competition with the other Sailors of the Year. They are all outstanding individuals and I hope to see them out in the fleet all wearing khakis," said the dual warfare qualified Sailor.

If selected as the Navy Shore Sailor of the Year, she will be meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer.

"When I think about it, the most important part of my career was while attached to the LEXINGTON-- being hand selected as the LPO of my division. It gave me great pride to know my supervisor trusted me. I learned the most then. I was left to make decisions, right or wrong, I understood that the responsibility lay on my shoulders. I learned why setting goals was important, for me and for those Sailors who worked for me. I learned to be a goal setter and how to share my training and knowledge with others," said Sylvia, who was also selected as the FLETRACEN Sailor of the Year.

Vice Adm. Craine chief of Naval Education and Training, presented Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals to the other six finalists during the banquet.

Representing Naval Technical Training Unit (NTTU), Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., was Aviation Electronics Technician First Class Steven J. Day. The aviation-warfare-qualified native of Troy, Ohio, is a nine-year Navy veteran and qualified command duty officer.

Representing Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC), Pensacola, Fla., was Aviation Structural Mechanic First Class Darrell S. Resendez. He is a Coos Bay, Ore., native and a 19-year Navy aviation-warfare qualified veteran assigned as military standards department (MDS) LPO.

Representing Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC), Corry Station, Pensacola, Fla., was Cryptologic Technician Petty Officer First Class Ronald K. Robinette. He is a surface-warfare-qualified native of Burlington, N. C., as well as an eight-year Navy veteran.

Representing Naval Air Maintenance Training Group (NAMTRAGRU), Pensacola, Fla., was Aviation Structural Mechanic Petty Officer First Class Sophia Loren Hargrove. She is a Barbados, West Indies native and a 19-year aviation-warfare qualified Navy veteran who is an E2/C2 airframe Instructor assigned to Naval Air Maintenance Training Group Detachment (NAMTRAGRUDET), Norfolk, Va.

Representing Naval Training Center (NTC), Great Lakes, Ill., was Electronics Technician First Class James A. Ritch. He is a Woodland, Calif., native and a surface-

warfare qualified ten-year Navy veteran assigned as an instructor for electronics technician "A" school.

Representing Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA), Corpus Christi, Texas, was Aviation Warfare Systems Operator First Class Christopher D. Caton. The 15-year aviation-warfare-qualified Navy veteran was born in Honolulu and is currently assigned to Naval Aviation Schools Command (NAVAVSCOLSCOM), Pensacola, Fla.

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